



DATE: June 23, 2016

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

FROM: Joseph Iser, MD, DrPH, MSc, Chief Health Officer

SUBJECT: Chief Health Officer Report

Zika Update

The Southern Nevada Health District has reported five cases of Zika virus in Clark County residents as of June 8, 2016. All patients reported by the Health District are travel associated cases, and updates are being posted to the [website](#) as they are confirmed. Fifty-three people have been tested, and 41 results have been received. The Health District continues to advise anyone who is concerned about a possible exposure to Zika virus and who has traveled to an area where the virus is circulating to consult with a health care provider. A Zika virus diagnosis is based on travel history, clinical signs and symptoms, and laboratory blood tests. Additional information about Zika virus disease is available on the [Health District website](#) and on the [CDC website](#).

Accreditation Update

The Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement Plan, and Strategic Plan are complete. These are the first key pieces in the accreditation process and are required by the Public Health Accreditation Board.

Major changes to the www.HealthySouthernNevada.org website will roll out in July, including the availability of the Community Health Assessment on the site. The priorities identified in the assessment - chronic disease, policy and funding, and access to healthcare - will drive the Community Health Improvement Plan and will also be accessible on the Healthy Southern Nevada site, including the objectives, timelines, and tracking indicators. Other anticipated changes in the coming months include more mini-dashboards that can be linked to other websites, including www.SNHD.info.

RNBound

On Wednesday, June 08, 2016 the Health District hosted a tour for participants of the RNBound program. RNBound is a summer camp sponsored by Nevada State College that is targeted towards underrepresented minority 9-12 grade high school students in the Clark County School District. It provides students with an opportunity to explore health careers in nursing. The overarching goals of the program are to spark students' interest in nursing in order to address the long-term issues of reducing nursing shortages, increasing workforce diversity, dispelling stereotypes and

misperceptions about the profession, and encouraging continued advancement in education. Students were provided with the opportunity to explore a variety of nursing professions and tour different health care facilities. The tour of the Health District provided the participants with an introduction to public health and the many different career opportunities available to those interested in a career in nursing or public health and related fields.

Community Meetings

- Participated in Trauma System Advocacy Committee Workshop
- Participated in NACCHO Finance Committee meeting
- Provided media interviews upon request
- Attended the Legislative Committee on Health Care
- Participated in Nevada Public Health Authority Advocacy meeting
- Participated in NACCHO Nominations Committee meeting
- Met with Assemblyman Oscarson regarding EMT costs to volunteers
- Met with UHS staff regarding Trauma Center
- Met with owner of The Farm and Commissioner Kirkpatrick regarding environmental health issue
- Met with John Sande regarding legislative agenda
- Met with Southern Hills Hospital staff regarding introduction to the hospital
- Participated in Nevada State Medical Association teleconference
- Participated in NACCHO Board of Directors meeting
- Met with Bobbette Bond, Director, Health Policy, Culinary Health Fund, regarding Trauma/Health Services Coalition/Priorities
- Attended Desert Meadows Area Health Education Council Meeting
- Participated in Big Cities Health Coalition teleconference
- Met with Nevada State representatives regarding the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory
- Participated in Strategic Planning for Preparedness and Public Health Laboratories meeting
- Participated in Health Officer Association of California teleconference
- Participated in California Conference of Local Health Officers teleconference
- Met with Megan Comlossy regarding the Legislative Committee on Health Care
- Met with United Healthcare and Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office staff to collaborate and have an opportunity for both the SNHD and United to confirm levels of commitment to a health care integration project with NFP
- Met with Ron Futrell, VP Sales and Marketing, AVISIGHT, regarding aerial surveillance to detect public health dangers and possible sources for grants
- Met with Clark County Social Services staff regarding identifying partnership opportunities for Community Health Nurses and parenting/pregnant teens
- Participated in Health Officers Association of California Board meeting
- Participated in California Conference of Local Health Officers Board meeting
- Participated in Nevada Health Authority teleconference

Southern Nevada Zika Response Activities and Resources

Supplement to "Guidance for Surveillance of and Response to Invasive *Aedes* Mosquitoes and Dengue, Chikungunya, and Zika in Southern Nevada"

May 2016

Background

In May 2015, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) issued an alert regarding the first confirmed case of Zika virus infection in Brazil. The Zika outbreak in Brazil coincided with increased reports of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) and pregnant women giving birth to babies with birth defects. From Brazil, the Zika virus spread to many regions of the Americas and the Caribbean. Zika virus outbreaks are currently occurring in [many countries and territories](#). To date, Zika has not been spread by mosquitoes in the continental United States, but travel associated cases have been reported. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to monitor Zika cases in the United States and U.S. territories and updates guidance as new information becomes available. Southern Nevada is closely monitoring Zika cases among returning travelers and their sexual contacts in the state. For more information, visit [CDC's Zika website](#).

Purpose

The Southern Nevada Zika Response Activities and Resources document is a ready reference and aid for local public health, vector control agencies, and health care providers in Southern Nevada, and serves as a to CDC's ["Top 10 Zika Response Planning Tips: Brief Information for Local, and Territorial Health Officials."](#)

Zika Readiness Planning Resources

Local responses to Zika cases or an outbreak will differ in jurisdictions where *Aedes* species mosquitoes (*Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*) are present and therefore could become infected with Zika virus. All counties may have travel-associated Zika cases. It is critical for state and local public health to ensure that there is enhanced epidemiology and surveillance systems, as well as support for pregnant women and families with a child born with microcephaly or other birth defects linked to Zika virus infection. The Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) references the following resources, developed by the SNHD and CDC, to help prepare for potential Zika cases in Southern Nevada. Listed activities are relevant to SNHD and/or vector control agencies.

1. **Vector Control and Surveillance** - Applicable in all locations where *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes are present.

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Goals: To target vector control activities in priority areas/at-risk populations to suppress Zika virus transmission if local cases or an outbreak is detected.

Key Activities:

- Ensure ongoing communication between local vector control agencies and SNHD.
- Conduct ongoing local vector surveillance and control, especially in jurisdictions where *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes are present.
- Conduct extensive *Aedes* mosquito surveillance and control within a 150-yard radius of Zika case-patients' residences immediately subsequent to case detection.
- Conduct enhanced *Aedes* mosquito surveillance and control in vicinity of locations case patients frequented (work, school etc) as indicated by epidemiologic investigations.
- Educate communities on how to reduce mosquito populations through source reduction.
- Educate communities on how to protect themselves using personal protection and primary mosquito prevention methods.
- Provide guidance and mosquito control services to pregnant women in high-risk areas.

Resources:

[CDC: Surveillance and Control of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* in the United States](#)

[Rutgers: *Aedes albopictus* control](#)

[CDC: Help Control Mosquitoes that Spread Dengue, Chikungunya, and Zika Virus](#)

[SNHD: Zika Website](#)

2. Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation

Goals: To ensure adequate and accurate diagnosis and reporting of Zika cases; to monitor epidemiologic trends in distribution, transmission, and severity; to inform prevention and control efforts; and to identify cases or clusters that require follow-up or intervention.

Key Activities:

- Ensure systems and procedures are in place to identify potential or confirmed Zika cases:
 - with symptomatic infections
 - in pregnant women
 - associated with reproductive or congenital outcomes, including microcephaly
 - associated with Guillain-Barré syndrome
 - associated with blood transfusions
 - associated with sexual transmission
- Ensure investigating officials and clinicians have the latest case definitions from the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and CDC.
- Ensure clinicians are aware that Zika is reportable to public health in Southern Nevada and in the U.S.

Resources:

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[Current case definitions](#)

3. Laboratory Testing and Support Services

Goals: To ensure local health departments have the support needed for testing of suspect Zika cases.

Key Activities:

- Ensure ongoing availability of molecular (RT-PCR) tests or IgM antibody serology for Zika virus infection in Southern Nevada or elsewhere.
- Communicate with healthcare providers about how to submit specimens through the Southern Nevada Health District.
- Provide ongoing consultation for health care providers who have questions regarding testing services and the interpretation of results of tests for Zika virus infection.

Resources:

[CDC: Zika Virus Diagnostic Testing](#)

[CDC: Revised diagnostic testing for Zika, chikungunya, and dengue viruses in US Public Health Laboratories](#)

4. Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Zika Virus Infections

Goals: To reduce the risk of sexually transmitted Zika virus by providing guidance to the Public regarding the risks and to clinicians so they may counsel their patients.

Key Activities:

- Provide ongoing education to the public and clinicians regarding the risks of sexual transmission of Zika virus, and encourage the public, especially pregnant women, to follow guidelines to prevent transmission and further spread of the virus.

Resources:

[CDC: Zika and Sexual Transmission](#)

[CDC MMWR: Interim Guidelines for Prevention of Sexual Transmission of Zika Virus – United States, 2016](#)

5. Prevention of Blood Transfusion–Transmitted Zika Virus Infections

Goals: To reduce the risk of transfusion-transmitted Zika virus during a local or more widespread outbreak in areas with active transmission.

Key Activities:

- Continue to coordinate with local and state epidemiology and surveillance partners to identify the support needed to investigate Zika virus infections suspected to be associated with blood products or transfusions in collaboration with local blood centers and transfusing healthcare facilities.
- When local transmission is known, identify local blood centers within endemic areas to ensure that blood products collected are screened for the Zika virus, subjected to pathogen-reduction technology, or come from sources where Zika infection is not present.

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Resources:

[FDA Blood Safety Guidance: Recommendations for Donor Screening, Deferral, and Product Management to Reduce the Risk of Transfusion-Transmission of Zika Virus](#)

6. Maternal and Child Health Surveillance and Response

Goals: To prevent Zika virus infection during pregnancy, monitor pregnant women with suspected or confirmed Zika virus infection, and follow up to track adverse pregnancy and infant outcomes.

Key Activities:

- Establish a Southern Nevada Zika pregnancy registry reporting system to actively monitor pregnant women with suspected or confirmed Zika infection, and contribute to the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry.
 - Utilize the infrastructure, expertise and authority of the California Birth Defects.
 - Monitoring Program to collect and house this information.
 - Identify opportunities to align with other systems that monitor pregnant women and infants/children.
 - Work with CDC to engage in the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry.
- Ensure training and educational materials from CDC/U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry are appropriately augmented with local information and distributed to healthcare providers.
- Reach healthcare providers who are counseling patients on how to reduce their risk of sexual transmission of the Zika virus and reduce unintended pregnancies through provision of effective contraception.

Via SNHD's Health Alert Network and press releases, we will:

- Advise patients, especially pregnant women and women trying to become pregnant, on how to reduce mosquito exposure and the recommended timeframes for conception following exposure.
 - Via local Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) programs; Women's Infants and Children (WIC) programs, and health care providers.
- Ensure obstetric providers increase screening for symptoms of Zika and travel histories, and adhere to the CDC guidelines for monitoring pregnant women.

Resources:

[CDC MMWR: Update: Interim Guidelines for Health Care Providers Caring for Pregnant Women and Women of Reproductive Age with Possible Zika Virus Exposure – United States, 2016](#)

[CDC: Questions and Answers for Healthcare Providers Caring for Pregnant Women and Women of Reproductive Age with Possible Zika Virus Exposure](#)

[CDC: For Health Care Providers](#)

[CDC: Questions and Answers for Pediatric Healthcare Providers: Infants and Zika Virus Infection](#)

[CDC Health Alert Network \(HAN\) Update: Recognizing, Managing, and Reporting Zika Virus Infections in Travelers Returning from Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and Mexico](#)

[CDC: Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity \(COCA\) Call - Zika Virus — What](#)

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[Clinicians Need to Know](#)
[CDC: Zika and Sexual Transmission](#)
[CDC MMWR Zika Reports](#)
[CDC: U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry](#)
[SNHD: Zika Website](#)

7. Rapid Birth Defects Monitoring and Follow-up

Goals: To ensure rapid detection of microcephaly, other major birth defects, and other disabilities that might be associated with Zika virus infection and conduct population based birth defects monitoring to track whether rates of abnormalities potentially related to Zika change, and to provide birth defects registry data that will assist in planning for adequate services for these children and their families.

Key Activities:

- Develop a Zika Registry Program ensuring healthcare providers have information regarding Zika case reporting requirements and infrastructure.
- Conduct population-based birth defects surveillance to track rates of birth defects potentially related to Zika infection.
- Provide birth defects registry data to assist in determining if projected needs (medical and support) for families with a child with microcephaly or another major birth defect have been assessed and planned for and if there is a system in place with the capacity to adequately address those needs.
- Monitor the evolving science and knowledge base with regard to the spectrum of birth defects resulting from Zika infection in pregnancy.
- Coordinate with and share California data with the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry.
- Ensure training and educational materials from CDC are appropriately augmented with SNHD documents and distributed to pediatric providers so that they can evaluate infants with possible congenital Zika virus infection.

Resources:

[CDC MMWR Zika Reports](#)
[CDC: Facts about Microcephaly](#)
[National Birth Defects Prevention Network](#)

8. Travel Health News

Goals: To ensure travelers to areas with locally transmitted Zika virus receive appropriate information regarding risks and protection measures.

Key Activities:

- Disseminate travel notices designed to inform travelers and clinicians about the risks for contracting Zika infection related to specific destinations and provide prevention recommendations.
- Distribute Zika advisory posters to key airports to display in areas where there are frequent international flights to Latin America or the Caribbean.

Resources:

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[CDC Zika Travel Notices](#)

9. Clinician Outreach and Communication

Goals: To inform healthcare providers of the risks, recognition, diagnosis, reporting, clinical management, outcomes, and prevention of Zika virus infections.

Key Activities:

- Continue to review updates to CDC and professional organization clinical care guidelines and other publications, and update and augment CDPH material accordingly to meet local needs.
- Monitor frequent provider questions and develop and disseminate resources to address their needs.
- Identify targeted areas of clinician outreach based on Zika transmission, Zika cases, frequent travel of patients, and presence of *Aedes* mosquitoes as appropriate.
- Employ appropriate and effective channels to share information with healthcare providers (e.g., Health Alert Network, webinars).
 - Presentations and stakeholder updates
 - Healthcare provider conference calls
 - School health centers
 - Media outlets (radio, Spanish TV, news stations)

Resources:

[CDC: Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity \(COCA\) Call - Zika Virus — What Clinicians Need to Know](#)
[CDC MMWR Zika Reports](#)
[SNHD: Zika Website](#)

10. Risk Communication/Community Education

Goals: To inform the public and provide prevention strategies about Zika virus and related birth defects or illnesses, especially microcephaly and other harmful effects to pregnant women and their fetuses.

Key Activities:

- Develop and disseminate Zika education messages, products, and outreach campaigns with key partners and stakeholders to harmonize response for people traveling to or living in areas of higher risk of Zika transmission.
 - Create targeted messaging using the CDC Joint Information Center (JIC) key messages document, CDC, and Southern Nevada Zika website resources to prepare messaging materials. Key audiences are:
 - Women of reproductive age
 - Low-income reproductive age women
 - Young women and men (college outreach)
 - Frequent travelers to areas with Zika virus transmission
 - Health care providers
 - Use various modes of communication to ensure high-risk populations receive the information (e.g., radio, television, social media, print, and talking points).

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- Segment the Zika education efforts into targeted campaigns with education and outreach toolkits for specific audiences, including:
 - MCAH/WIC program participants and community partners
 - California college students preparing for summer travel/study abroad
 - Travelers passing through McCarran Airport crossings
- Identify additional sources for sharing Zika news and preventive messages including:
 - Subject matter expert/spokesperson for media interviews/press conferences, Op-eds, and presentations to local partners and other groups serving our key audiences.
 - Other programs and agencies that can disseminate information.
- Identify local vendors for translation (as necessary), printing, signage, and audiovisual/public service announcement development and determine what is required (funding, contract, approval) to use these resources for message and product dissemination.

Resources:

[CDC Zika Website](#)

[CDPH: Zika and Pregnancy Poster](#)

[CDPH: Zika and Pregnancy Poster - Spanish](#)

[SNHD: Zika Website](#)